

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus attachable to a vacuum source for removing moisture from a building structure, the apparatus comprising:

a grid having a first plurality of members arranged in a first direction and a second plurality of ~~similarly shaped~~ members arranged in a second direction, the second plurality of members supported on the first plurality of members to form a three-dimensional ~~lattice~~ structure that permits efficient air flow through the structure and over a large surface, the first direction different from the second direction, the grid configurable to be placed on at least a portion of the building structure;

a tunnel-shaped plate supportable on a portion of the grid, the plate having at least one vacuum attachment port to permit fluid communication between the building structure and a vacuum source; and

a flexible membrane placed over the grid and plate, the membrane extending past a periphery of the grid and sealed relative to the building structure and the at least one vacuum attachment port.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the at least one vacuum attachment port includes a barbed nozzle.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the flexible membrane includes a plastic sheet material.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein at least one of the first and second plurality of members of the grid comprise generally parallel rows of strands.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first direction is substantially non-parallel relative to the second direction.

48. (New) An apparatus attachable to a vacuum source for removing moisture from a building structure, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated manifold defined by a plurality of faces forming a volume that is sealable relative to at least one of a wall-floor junction; and

a vacuum hose port formed in one of the plurality of faces, the vacuum hose port configured to be in fluid communication with a vacuum source.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the plurality of faces include a first face, a second face, side faces and a vacuum-attach face, the vacuum-attach face coupled to the first face, the second face and the side faces.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the first and second faces are approximately perpendicular to one another.

51. (New) A surface drying system having a vacuum source comprising:

a water-impermeable membrane having an upper side, a lower side, and a perimeter, the lower side being configured to be positioned proximate to the surface to be dried;

a port within to membrane, the port configured to allow water and air to pass from the lower side to upper side of the membrane and the vacuum source; and

a grid associated with the lower side of the membrane, the grid further comprising a plurality of passages that permit the travel of air and water between the surface and the membrane from locations distant from the port toward the port when the membrane is placed adjacent the surface,

wherein the vacuum source creates an enclosure of negative pressure within the perimeter of the membrane and urges water to flow through the passageways towards the vacuum source to effect moisture removal.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the grid is formed separately from the membrane.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the port includes a manifold, the manifold having at least one nozzle, the first end of the nozzle connectable in fluid communication with the vacuum source and the second end of the nozzle in fluid communication with the port.

54. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the membrane is sealed to the surface.